



WINNIPEG SUN

Heat Assault's Bruce Klassen (left) and Monarch Pest Control technician Daniel Lernout monitor the system as a home is heated during a bedbug treatment.

## 'Toba heat technology to battle pests in high demand

Technology made in Manitoba is now being put to use battling bedbugs well beyond this province's borders.

Bruce Klassen developed the Heat Assault technology out of mobile glycol heaters his company produced mainly for construction sites. Working with Manitoba Housing, which had a burgeoning bedbug problem in its properties over the past few years, Klassen's invention is now in demand all over North America as the pests multiply drastically.

"We'd heard of electric heat being successful in smaller applications," said Klassen who is company president and owner of Heat Assault.

The mobile system uses a diesel engine to produce high heat a home's electrical system could not churn out.

The system employs no pesticides. Bedbugs at all stages of development, from eggs to adults, are killed when infested property is heated above 50 C, causing the pests' exoskeletons to crack, drying the bugs out. The process takes several hours.

### 'Enormous' power

"This machine will put out 500,000 BTU an hour," Klassen said. "It's the equivalent of 85 1,500-watt electric heaters plugged into the wall at the same time, so it's an enormous amount of power

we're producing."

Klassen's invention is being used in Winnipeg by Monarch Pest Control and by Manitoba Housing, who have two of the mobile units. Klassen said Heat Assault started aggressively marketing the product in the last four months, but said demand is already way up.

"The phones are ringing off the hook," he said.

It costs about \$1,500 to bring the Heat Assault system into an average-sized home in the city.

"It's a unique system in that it's so powerful," Klassen said. "We've successfully done 20-storey buildings a floor at a time."

— Halstead